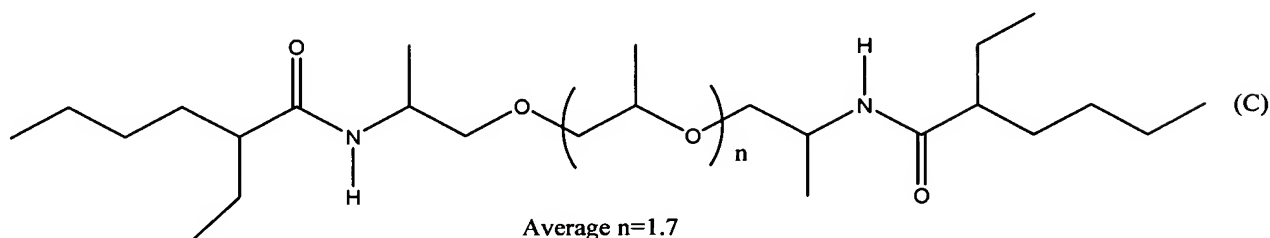


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

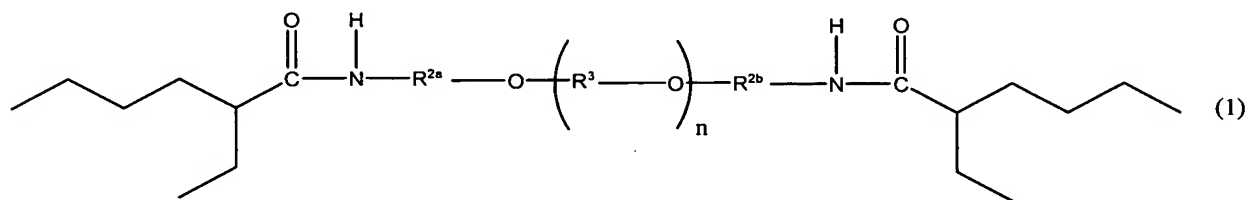
Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A diamide derivative composition which is represented by the following formula (C):



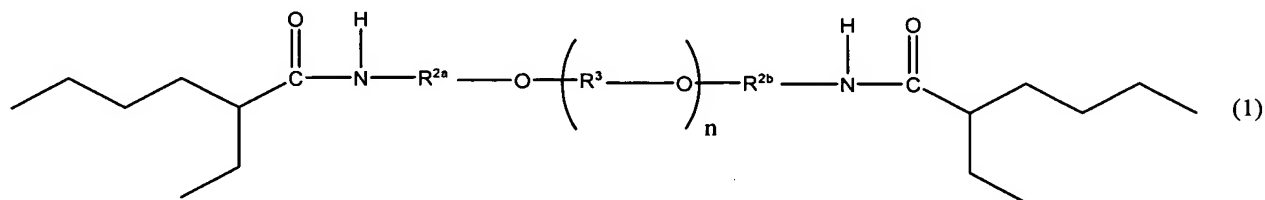
Claims 15-25 (canceled)

Claim 26: (currently amended) A diamide derivative compound which is represented by the following formula (1)



wherein, R^{2a} and R^{2b} are the same or different and each represents a divalent C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, R^3 s are the same or different and each represents a divalent C_{2-6} hydrocarbon group and n stands for 1 to 100.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A composition for external application, which comprises a diamide derivative compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein, R^{2a} and R^{2b} are the same or different and each represents a divalent C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, R^3 's are the same or different and each represents a divalent C_{2-6} hydrocarbon group and n stands for 1 to 100.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The composition for external application of claim 27, further comprising an intercellular lipid component of the horny layer.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The composition for external application according to claim 28 wherein the intracellular lipid component of the horny layer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ceramides, ~~pseudoceramids~~, pseudoceramides, sphingoglycolipids, sphingophospholipids, sphingosines and derivatives thereof, sphinganine and derivatives thereof, higher fatty acids and cholesterol and derivatives thereof.

30. (previously presented): The composition for external application according to claim 27, which is a cosmetic composition.

31. (previously presented) The composition of claim 27, further comprises an oily base.

32. (previously presented) The composition claim 31, wherein said oily base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of vegetable oils, animal oils, synthetic oils, fatty acids, natural glycerides and synthetic glycerides.

33. (previously presented) The composition of claim 27, which comprises 0.001 to 5 wt. % of said diamide.

34. (previously presented) The composition of claim 33, further comprising an anionic surfactant.

35. (previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein said anionic surfactant is present in an amount of 5 to 30 wt.%.

36. (previously presented) The composition of claim 27, which comprises 0.1 to 20 wt. % of said diamide.

37. (previously presented) The composition of claim 36, further comprising at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic surfactant and non-ionic surfactant.

38. (previously presented) The composition of claim 37, wherein said surfactant is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50 wt.%.

39. (previously presented) The composition of claim 27, wherein said composition comprises 0.01 to 5 wt.% of said diamide.

40. (previously presented) The composition of claim 39, wherein said composition further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

41. (previously presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein said nonionic surfactant is present in an amount of 0.01 to 20 wt.%.

42. (previously presented) The composition for external application of claim 27, wherein n stands for 1 to 10.

43. (previously presented) The diamide derivative of claim 26, wherein n stands for 1 to 10.